

EXHIBIT 4

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : D. M. Ladd
FROM : H. B. Fletcher
SUBJECT: JUDITH COPLON, with aliases
Espionage - R

DATE: January 27, 1949

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
Mr. Clegg ✓
Mr. Glavin ✓
Mr. Ladd ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tracy ✓
Mr. Egan ✓
Mr. Gurnea ✓
Mr. Harbo ✓
Mr. Mohr ✓
Mr. Pennington ✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Mr. Nease ✓
Miss Holmes ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

The following proposal, in connection with this woman who is employed in the Foreign Agents Registration Section of the Department of Justice, is made in order that we may, if possible, obtain legal evidence of her espionage activities at the earliest possible time. You will recall that on January 14, 1949, Judith Coplon met in New York City, Valentine Alekseevich Gubitchev, a Soviet United Nations employee. This meeting strongly indicates that Judith Coplon is still active as a Soviet espionage agent and would tend to indicate that she has been active since being recruited by the M.G.B. (Soviet Intelligence) in December, 1944.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to obtain legal evidence of her espionage activities. To do this it will be necessary to prove that she delivers restricted documents to some unauthorized person. We must also be in a position to prove what the documents are. It is therefore recommended that we prepare a blind memorandum on the Amtorg Trading Corporation containing a review of information appearing in our files.

It is suggested that this document be approximately ten or fifteen pages in length. We are presently in communication with the Department concerning a possible Foreign Agents Registration Act violation on the part of Amtorg and have previously furnished them reports in that case so the preparation of such a memorandum would be entirely logical. It is proposed that we place a memorandum of transmittal to the Department on this blind memorandum in which we state that in connection with any Registration Act violation on the part of Amtorg, we desire to call to the Department's attention that we presently have two Soviet officials of Amtorg serving in a confidential capacity as informants of this Bureau and that these two officials could, if necessary, be used in any contemplated prosecution of Amtorg. This information, of course, would be false but would be of value for two reasons. First, it would make the "bait" attractive and also if and when it reaches the hands of Soviet Intelligence would prove disruptive to both the operations of Amtorg and Soviet Intelligence. Undoubtedly Soviet Intelligence would engage in a widespread investigation to locate their "two traitors" in Amtorg.

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After the preparation of such a memorandum it would be necessary to take it to the appropriate officials at the Department who should be advised that the information appearing in the cover memorandum is false. Mr. Foley, the head of the Foreign Agents Registration Section, should also be advised that the cover information is false. He should be requested to see that the memorandum comes to Coplon's attention and to thereafter be in a position where he can advise if Coplon removes the memorandum. At the same time we will have to co-ordinate his activity in this regard inside the Foreign Agents Registration Section with a physical surveillance by Agents of the Washington Field Office on Coplon so that if and when she removes the document we will know it.

RJL:jpa

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OBSERVATIONS:

It is believed that this proposal offers us a good opportunity to detect the actual transmission of espionage data. You will appreciate that the receiving of a Bureau memorandum on Amtorg would be of prime interest to Coplon's Soviet principles.

It is felt that if we can detect Coplon in the act of passing such a document we will have a good possibility of doubling her and thereafter using her to penetrate Soviet Intelligence operations or in the alternative we will be in a position to furnish to the Department proof of a violation of the espionage statutes.

RECOMMENDATION:

In accordance with the above, there is attached a memorandum to Mr. Peyton Ford regarding the Amtorg Trading Corporation. You will note that the penultimate paragraph of this memorandum is false.

If approved, the proposed memorandum should not be handled by routine messenger service but should be returned to Mr. H. B. Fletcher, Room 1742, for personal delivery to Mr. Ford.

Memorandum
detached & sent
to Mr. Fletcher
by spec. mess -
5:50 PM. 1-28-49
JW

OK.
H.

J. Edgar
H
✓